

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 283238
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 283238

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 8725 ACTION SECSTATE 27 NOV 77

QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 8725

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, JO, US, XF

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS--KING HUSSEIN'S VIEWS

REF STATE 283213 AND PREVIOUS

1. THIS TELEGRAM SUMMARIZES MY TALK WITH KING HUSSEIN
NOVEMBER 27. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS WITH DETAILED REPORT.

2. KING IS OBVIOUSLY SUFFERING THROUGH A QUANDRY ABOUT
WHAT TO DO NEXT AND HOW TO REACT. HE AGREES WITH POINTS

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WE MADE ABOUT OUR POSITION IN REFTTEL AND PARTICULARLY
ABOUT NEED TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM TOWARD PEACE AND AT SAME
TIME REPAIR TATTERED THREADS OF ARAB UNITY.

3. BASICALLY HE REMAINS SUPPORTIVE OF SADAT AND THE
SADAT VISIT. PREPARATORY CONFERENCE IN CAIRO HAS ADDED
TO HIS DILEMMA AND HE SAID HE IS UNINCLINED TO GO THERE

TO "PLAY IN THE EGYPTIAN SYMPHONY." HE HAS NOT HEARD FROM EGYPTIANS ON SADAT TRIP OR RECEIVED AN INVITATION FROM CAIRO.

4. HIS OWN PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR A JORDANIAN STATEMENT OF VIEWS. BUT GIVEN DEGREE TO WHICH HE IS PULLED BY BOTH SIDES AND THE PRESENT FLUID STATE OF AFFAIRS, HE SAID HE WILL HOLD OFF MAKING ANY FURTHER STATEMENTS FOR AWHILE. HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SAUDIS AND SUGGEST AN EARLY MEETING, BUT HAS NOT HEARD FROM THEM. HE INTENDS TO CALL ASAD THIS EVENING FOR A TALK.

5. KING, AS REPORTED EARLIER, HAS REACTED MOST NEGATIVELY TO SYRIAN PRESSURE AND IS PREPARED FOR A BREAK IF ASAD WISHES TO FORCE IT OVER JORDAN'S POSITION TOWARD SADAT. KING NEVERTHELESS GREATLY FEARS A POSSIBLE SYRIAN-IRAQI COMBINATION AGAINST HIM WITH ALL IT PORTENDS IN THE WAY OF TERRORISM, SUBVERSION, OPEN PRESSURE. THUS FAR SYRIA HAS BEEN CIRCUMSPECT IN ITS DEALINGS WITH JORDAN. KING HAS RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO THURSDAY TRIPOLI CONFERENCE OF REJECTIONISTS WHICH HE SAYS HE IS TURNING DOWN.

6. FOR THE FUTURE, KING BELIEVES THAT BREACH IN ARAB RANKS IS UNHEALABLE FOR THE TIME BEING. HE HAS NO GOOD IDEAS ABOUT WHAT WE CAN DO, BUT AGREES STRONGLY THAT
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KEEPING THE DOOR OPEN FOR SYRIA IF, AS, AND WHEN ANY SYRIAN-IRAQI TEMPORARY PARTNERSHIP BREAKS UP, IS A VERY GOOD POSTURE TO MAINTAIN.

7 KING NOW ENTERING A PHASE OF COMMUNICATING MORE WIDELY IN THE ARAB WORLD AND SAYS HE WANTS TO STAY IN CLOSEST TOUCH WITH US. HE IS STILL SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT ANY PRESENT COMMITMENT TO SADAT WILL TRAP HIM IN ANY FUTURE ACTION WITH WHICH ADAT NEXT WISHES TO SURPRISE THE MIDDLE EAST.

8. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT REPEAT CAIRO, DAMASCUS, AND TEL AVIV. PICKERING.
UNQUOTE VANCE".

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